

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-24 are pending. Claims 3-5, 7, 9-19, and 21-24 are allowed. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 6 are at issue.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,892,313 to Lange in view of EP 565302 to Edwards and U.S. Patent No. 4,007,834 to Borgersen.

The rejection, as it may apply to the claims presented herein, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to be directed to a rivet application system for a conveyor belt including a rivet holder having a unitary plate body, a plurality of rivets, and a plurality of rivet-receiving apertures of the unitary plate body. As amended, claim 1 requires that the rivet-receiving apertures of the plate body be arranged in a predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern. Claim 1 is amended to recite a belt fastener for being secured to the conveyor belt with the rivets, and a plurality of rivet-receiving apertures of the belt fastener. Claim 1 further requires a guide block, and a plurality of rivet-receiving bores of the guide block. As amended, claim 1 requires that both the belt fastener rivet-receiving apertures and the guide block rivet-receiving bores be arranged in the same predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern as the rivet-receiving apertures of the rivet holder plate body for allowing all of the rivets held by the rivet holder to be simultaneously driven into the block body bores and then through the belt fastener apertures and into the conveyor belt. None of the cited art discloses or suggests or even relates to a rivet application system similar to that required in amended claim 1.

More particularly, none of the fastener systems taught in the cited references would be useful for the type of rivet application system set forth in amended claim 1. In this regard and as acknowledge in the Action, neither Lange nor Edwards disclose or suggest a non-linear pattern of rivet-receiving apertures of a unitary plate body, as recited in claim 1. For this, Borgersen is relied upon. However, Borgersen specifically requires a disc shaped carrier 10 for screws 11 with the holes 12 in which the screws 11 are

received arranged in a circular pattern around the periphery of the disc shaped carrier 10. The circular arrangement of the holes 12 allows for the provision of the central opening 16 into which a shaft of a screw tightening apparatus is to be fit so that with step-wise turning of the shaft, the tightening apparatus advances the screws 11 individually into driving position (see column 2, lines 35-38 and column 3, lines 1-6). By contrast, claim 1 specifies that the rivet receiving apertures of the unitary plate body are arranged in predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern. Further, amended claim 1 requires both a belt fastener and a guide block with the rivet receiving apertures of the belt fastener and the rivet receiving bores of the guide block both being arranged in the same predetermined non-linear non-circular pattern as the rivet-receiving apertures of the rivet holder plate body. As stated in amended claim 1, this allows all of the rivets held by the rivet holder to be simultaneously driven into the block body bores and then through the belt fastener apertures and into the conveyor belt. Not only do none of the cited references disclose or suggest the predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern for rivet-receiving apertures of a unitary plate body, none of the references disclose or suggest the recited belt fastener or guide block, let alone the requirement of amended claim 1 that rivet-receiving apertures of the belt fastener and rivet-receiving bores of the guide block be arranged in the same predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern as the rivet-receiving apertures of the rivet holder plate body. Accordingly, it is believed claim 1, and claims 2 and 6 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the relied upon art.

Based on the foregoing, reconsideration of claims, 1, 2 and 6 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required with respect to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

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Respectfully submitted,

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